

The monopoly of government-run health care will have the efficiency of the post office, the competency of FEMA, and the compassion of the good old IRS.

And that's just the way it is.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. SIREs asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, we must not let this historic opportunity slip away. If we do not act, rising health care costs will continue to crush families and businesses, forcing small business owners to choose between health care and jobs. If we do nothing, in 30 years, \$1 out of every \$3 in our economy will be tied up in the health care system. If we fail to pass reform, premiums for both single and family policies could more than double by 2020, continuing to pad the bottom line of insurance companies at the expense of the American workers.

If we can pass health reform, consumers will be able to select their insurance plan and doctors, and they would no longer be denied coverage because of preexisting conditions and they can keep their coverage when they change jobs.

Finally, reforming our health care system will allow us to free up more money for jobs and for economic activity while assisting small businesses to add an estimated 80,000 new jobs.

Mr. Speaker, how long are 46 million uninsured Americans supposed to wait? The American people deserve to take back control over their health care system.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. INGLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. INGLIS. Mr. Speaker, the government draws its legitimacy from the consent of the governed. I have here over 3,000 letters from the constituents in the Fourth District saying this: I write this letter to emphatically say I do not want this massive health care bill. I believe it costs too much, it taxes too much, and it will kill jobs. Reconciliation is the utmost of partisan maneuvers on such a bill and would be ill-advised. Health care reform needs to be addressed. Getting the economy going and restoring jobs should come first. I'm among those who favor a step-by-step commonsense approach that focuses on lowering costs for families and small business.

Mr. Speaker, reject this bill. Give us the consent of the governed, allow us to pass a bill that has the consent of the governed, and then we restore the legitimacy of this body. Stop the cram-down of health care reform.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. BACA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, we must pass health care reform now. A step-by-step approach is not the answer. If we do nothing, Americans will continue to pay higher premiums and higher out-of-pocket costs now and in the future. There are too many Americans that are without health coverage.

In my district in San Bernardino County, California, there are over 220,000 without coverage. We also face a 15 percent unemployment rate and the fourth highest foreclosure rate in the Nation.

Health care reform will lower the costs and hold health insurance companies accountable; end discrimination based on preexisting conditions; cut and eventually close the doughnut hole for thousands of seniors, including 5,200 seniors in my district; cut the national deficit by \$100 billion over 10 years; and produce over 4 million new jobs in the coming decade.

Families, not insurance companies, deserve the right to make their own health care decisions. Congress must not kick the can down the road. We need health care reform now. I state, we need health care reform now. This is a historic moment.

I ask us to support health care reform now—not tomorrow, not in the future, but now.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, when you practice law, there is an old expression that goes something like this: If you have the facts, argue the facts; if you have the law, argue the law; if you have neither, attack your opponent. That appears to be what's happening.

There are those of us who have argued that the process that we are engaged in—that is that we will not vote on the Senate bill but we will kind of vote on the Senate bill; we will deem it passed—is unconstitutional. And in response to that, the Speaker of the House has said this: I think it's ridiculous and the people who are telling you it's unconstitutional know better, and you should be very outraged that people who know better would say things like that. They know when they talk they're not telling the truth.

I resent being called a liar by the Speaker of the House. I resent the fact because there are constitutional scholars who have said this is unconstitutional.

Now, I have only argued one case before the Supreme Court—which I won on behalf of the People of the State of California—so I am not considered one of the great practitioners before the Supreme Court, but we have spoken to one of them who will work with us in bringing this case to the Supreme Court if we try this outrage against the American people.

Let's stick to the facts, stick to the law, and stop attacking people personally.

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NATIONAL AGRICULTURE WEEK

(Mr. CHILDERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CHILDERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of National Ag Week. This week we honor our farmers and the agriculture industry as a whole for their critical contributions to America's local economies, communities, and families. Agriculture is the backbone of the South and the number one industry in the State of Mississippi. Not only is it responsible for providing the necessities of everyday life, food, fiber, clothing, and fuel, to name a few, but it also plays a key role in spurring local economic development and strengthening American competitiveness in today's global economy.

I'm very honored to serve as the only member of Mississippi's delegation on the House Agriculture Committee. I'm also proud to co-chair the bipartisan Congressional Rural Caucus, which I joined Republican ADRIAN SMITH in reestablishing last year to address important challenges unique to rural America. Together we've reached across party lines to promote universal broadband access, economic development in rural communities, and the creation of a White House Office of Rural Policy.

I urge my colleagues to join the Congressional Rural Caucus in recognizing National Agriculture Week.

NO CLOSER FRIEND THAN ISRAEL

(Mr. MORAN of Kansas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Despite the diplomatic inconsistencies of the Obama administration, one thing is certain: Support for the U.S.-Israeli alliance remains strong in Congress. Israel is America's closest friend in the most volatile region of the world. It is a democracy that shares our values and hopes for a more peaceful world. Regrettably, the administration's recent misstep undermines our shared goal of peace and distracts from more pressing issues.

Israel has a history of making peace with its neighbors and is prepared to make peace now. But peace is a two-way street, and the Palestinians' commitment to that peace is in doubt. Rather than make demands upon Israel for concession after concession, President Obama should work closely and privately with Israel, recognizing our two Nations' long and trusted alliance. Israeli peace agreements between Egypt and Jordan have been reached in the past when U.S. support for Israel was strong and consistent. The same level of commitment and closeness is now needed.